

TOP SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET
Washington 25, D.C.

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May 1, 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LAY

SUBJECT: NSC 127

On March 13 you requested the views of the Director of the Bureau of the Budget on NSC 127.

NSC 127 proposes to recommend to the President a plan which would provide for the organizational framework for the conduct of psychological operations throughout the course of any future state of general hostilities.

That subject has been under consideration for a long time. Occasionally, in the past, it has seemed to occupy the time and attention of planning staffs and resources at the expense of planning for the "conflict" actually upon us.

The adoption of some such plan as proposed in NSC 127 could therefore have the merit of freeing planning resources for more current realities. It could also provide for an easier transition with less indecision in the event of a sudden emergency. It has the further merit that it has now been agreed to by all the principal agencies now concerned.

In its present form, however, it would direct, as a matter of high priority, the immediate preparation of subsidiary plans and the taking of measures of preparation for its possible coming into effect. Those plans and measures would be at the expense of resources and attention which might be better utilized in the situation with which we are actually confronted.

In its present form it has the further defect of determining too rigidly now the course of action to which, if it is approved, the President presumably would be committed at some now unforeseen future date. This is an unnecessary and unwise restriction of Presidential flexibility in dealing with a future situation of particular concern to him.

It is my view, therefore, that NSC 127 should be amended prior to recommending it to the President so that it would reflect a more limited application, a less rigid assignment of responsibilities and a greater flexibility in its future reconsideration or amendment.

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A revision of the present paragraph 20, for example, along the lines indicated below would tend to minimize the defects discussed above. (The proposed additions to the present paper are underlined and the proposed deletions are bracketed).

"20. This basic major psychological operations plan is in effect for planning purposes. All government departments and agencies having the future responsibilities specifically assigned/indicated herein shall as a matter of high/ priority secondary to responsibilities assigned under NSC 59/1, the NSC 10 series, and the directive of April 5, 1951 establishing the Psychological Strategy Board draft supporting plans and make/all/ such limited preparations as would be necessary for efficient/execution/ transition to the provisions herein contained during any period immediately following their coming into effect."

(Signed, F.J. Lawton

Director

May 7, 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LAY

Subject: NSC 127

On May 1 I gave you some comment on the above to which I now wish to add the suggestion that the last phrase of paragraph 19 as revised be further revised to read "shall be coordinated through the organization established pursuant to NSC 59/1" instead of "shall be coordinated by the Psychological Strategy Board."

The coordination involved is purely administrative. The assumption by PSB of that type of coordinating responsibility is considered to be inconsistent with its responsibilities under the President's directive.

(signed) F. J. Lawton

Director

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